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13 August 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Berlin: [Aerial reconnaissance of the Berlin area carried out on 11 August revealed no evidence of a buildup of Soviet or East German military forces, but during the day there was a limited increase in East German security forces along the US and British sector borders. A few Soviet troops manned observation posts atop the Brandenburg Gate and at the Bornholmer Strasse S-Bahn Station, while East Berlin border patrols reportedly were intensified and strengthened during the night of 11 August. The high state of readiness of East German security forces, coupled with bloc diplomatic and propaganda allegations of Western "provocations," seems to reflect a primarily defensive posture. West Berlin police are erecting barriers to keep crowds away from the wall, and no mass observances of the Berlin Wall anniversary today are planned in the Western sector of the city.] [redacted]

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[West German Foreign Ministry officials do not anticipate any unilateral Soviet move to sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany in the near future. This view probably is based in part on the optimistic reports of interzonal trade negotiator Leopold, who was assured by his East German counterpart that no new passport or visa requirements would be imposed during 13-14 August on West German travelers to West Berlin.] [redacted]

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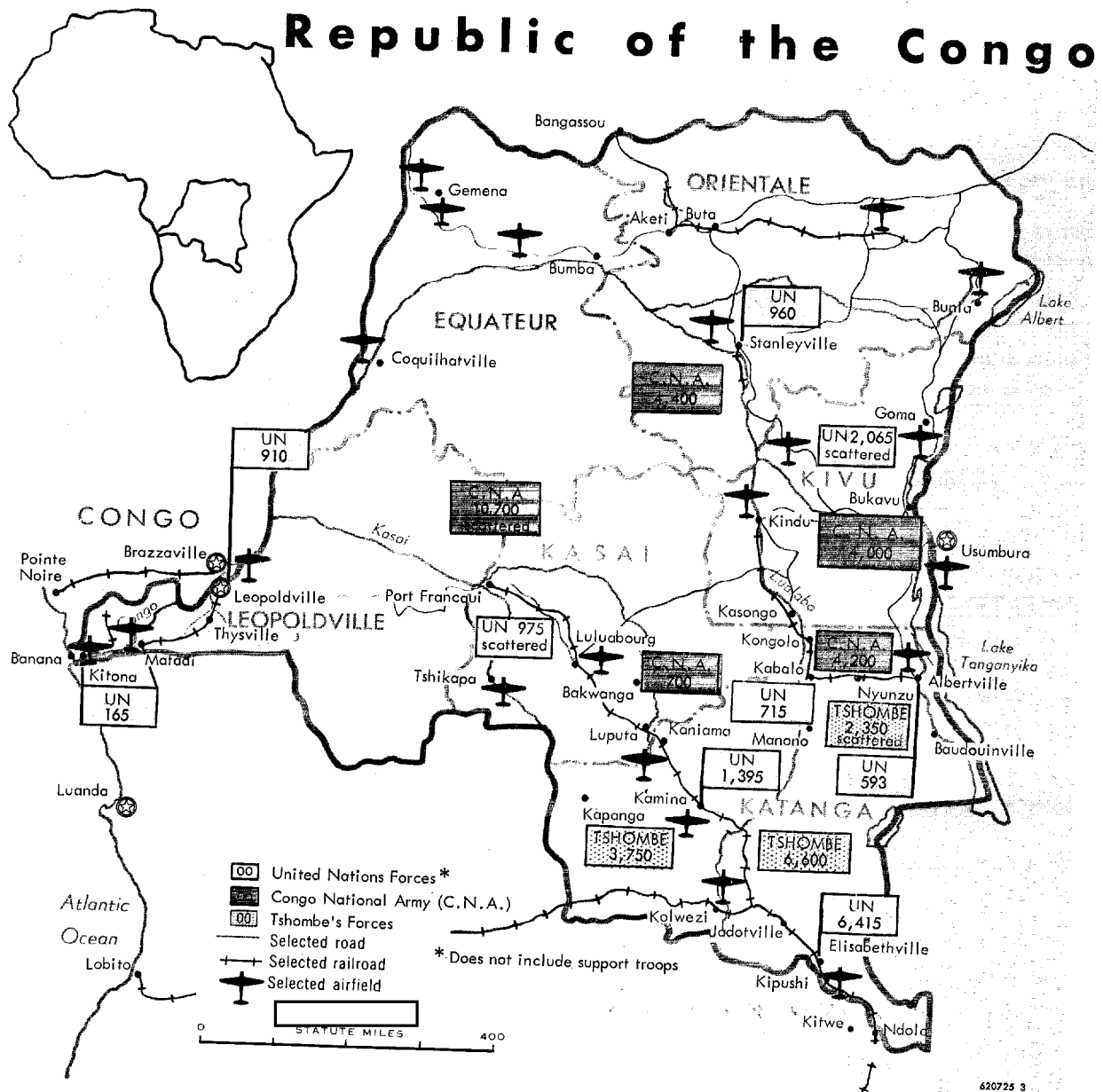
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Congo: Tshombé has written to Acting UN Secretary General U Thant from Geneva proposing the establishment of a "tripartite" commission of experts designated by Leopoldville, Elisabethville, and the UN to develop a federal constitution for the Congo. The letter made no reference to Adoula's recent request for UN assistance in drafting a new constitution providing for considerable provincial autonomy. Tshombé's government has also given members of the consular corps in Elisabethville a statement stressing Katanga's continued readiness to discuss "reasonable solutions" despite the central government's latest pressure tactics. The statement charged that these tactics rendered suspect Leopoldville's proclaimed support for a federal solution.

Indications are mounting that the central government, which recently reinforced Congo Army units in northern Katanga, may soon attempt to force Tshombé's troops to withdraw from the Kongolo area. Congolese Vice Premier Sendwe has informed the US Embassy in Leopoldville that he is going to Albertville on 18 August "to put an end to the Kongolo problem." He said he did not wish to make war, but is determined to resolve the problem and restore transport and communications lines linking northern Katanga with the rest of the Congo.

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Belgium-Congo: [Parliamentary and public pressure against Belgian support for any Congo reintegration plan involving sanctions is mounting, according to the US Embassy in Brussels. On 9 August the foreign affairs committee of the Belgian Senate expressed strong disapproval of future Belgian association with any pressure program against Katanga, noting the serious consequences for Belgian industry should Katanga's exports of non-ferrous metals be interrupted.]

[The Belgian chargé in Washington has stated that the transport and communications blockade initiated by Adoula will make it very difficult for Spaak to get agreement in Belgium to the US-UN Congo reintegration plan. Although Spaak has endorsed the US-UN plan, he has reservations covering the protection of Belgian property in the event of Katangan reprisals. In view of Adoula's actions, the mounting tension in Belgium, and the weak position generally of the Belgian government, he may not feel like starting another political controversy over the UN proposals.]

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Argentina: The appointment of retired general Jose Octavio Cornejo Saravia as secretary of war only partially resolves Argentina's government crisis. The principal military factions are still sharply divided, and agreement is still to be reached on the appointment of a commander-in-chief of the armed forces--one of the issues which touched off the crisis last week.

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*Laos: General Phoumi on 11 August told Ambassador Unger that in his recent meetings with Souvanna Phouma there had been "large areas" of agreement. Phoumi cited specifically Souvanna's willingness to support his new political organization and to permit the continuation of non-military air-drops to guerrilla units scattered throughout north-eastern Laos.]

[In contrast to these signs of a Souvanna-Phoumi rapprochement, there is increasing evidence of friction between the Laotian Premier and Souphannouvong. At an informal gathering of Laotian political figures on 8 August, Souvanna accused the Pathet Lao leader of sabotaging the coalition government. He said that while the Pathet Lao talk about neutrality, they have prevented members of the new government from visiting areas under their control. Furthermore, Phoumi said Souvanna told him on 9 August that--disregarding his wishes--Souphannouvong requested foreign Communist troops to stay in Sam Neua and Xieng Khouang provinces, ostensibly to prevent the Meo guerrillas from seizing control. Souvanna observed that he could no longer work with Souphannouvong because the latter was so "extremely loyal" to the Communists.]

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